

visory jurisdiction in this matter than over any other. I would want to consult my colleagues, the heads of the other armed services, because it affects them all, and endeavour to see that some uniform practice was observed.

My hon. friend asked if any applications had so far been made. So far as I know, no applications have been made, but that does not necessarily mean there have not been any. I have none in mind, and I do not remember any coming to my attention. I have not in mind anyone who has been returned from overseas under leave of this kind. If my hon. friend has any case in mind and wishes to bring it up, I shall be glad to hear of it.

With regard to the right to address meetings outside the constituency, the order in council provides that leave may be granted for the specific purpose of campaigning as a candidate. I take it that that would limit the candidate to campaigning in his own constituency.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: That is what I wanted to find out.

Mr. RALSTON: I am just reading the order in council. I never believe in offering a judicial opinion on the interpretation of a legal document without having it carefully examined, but those words strike me at the moment, as I read the order in council—and I do not pretend that it is my conclusion of the matter—that the leave intended here is for the purpose of campaigning as a candidate in his own riding.

Mr. ROWE: It does not say that, does it?

Mr. RALSTON: Campaigning as a candidate must be in his own riding, I would think. It could not be anywhere else.

Mr. ROWE: The minister was a candidate campaigning in other places.

Mr. RALSTON: Not as a candidate in the other places. I endeavoured to support a candidate, and I think my hon. friend did, too, from the same platform.

Mr. ROWE: The minister had been nominated.

Mr. RALSTON: I endeavoured to support a candidate, and I remember my hon. friend did the same, and on the same platform, too. He was supporting another candidate, I might say—lest there be any doubt. I think those words would rather indicate a restriction to campaigning in a candidate's own constituency. I will take that up and see if any clarification is needed; if so, I shall be glad to give it attention. I take it that my hon. friend is

really making a representation that it should be extended beyond the bounds of a candidate's constituency.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: What I am doing is endeavouring to have the minister give publicity to this order so that it will be known to the services overseas. I have had a number of letters asking what the regulations are, and while an order in council was passed many months ago, very few of the men overseas, apparently, understand the contents of the regulations as they are now.

Mr. RALSTON: I am sure that the regulations have been published in orders. Of course my hon. friend knows that we do not always read orders and sometimes when we have read them we forget them.

Mr. STIRLING: And do not understand them, too.

Mr. RALSTON: And do not understand them; but certainly the regulations will be given appropriate publicity in every way possible.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I should like to suggest, following what the hon. member for Lake Centre has said, that not only should the minister give some publicity to the regulations but the statement ought to be clarified so that men in the service may know exactly what they ought to do. I know that the position, for instance, with reference to provincial elections is one which bristles with difficulties. At the present time the group with which I am associated has two members of the Saskatchewan legislature on active service overseas. The space of time between the writs for the election being issued and the polling day is, I believe, only twenty-three days. It is manifestly impossible for these men to be brought back from overseas in that time unless some special arrangements are made to fly them back.

Mr. RALSTON: Many candidates, as my hon. friend knows, do not come back.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I know that, but there ought to be some understanding that if some are allowed to come back all should be permitted to do so. The minister is going to face quite a problem if some are brought back and special arrangements are not made to bring others back. I think the situation should be faced now instead of waiting until it happens and having the minister bombarded with wires and cablegrams asking that this man or that man be brought back. I believe that if arrangements can be made—and not many men will be affected—they ought to be brought back.